its revenue and population and with special reference to its actual requirements. He complained that, though Karunagapalli stood very high among the taluks of the State in point of revenue and population, the improvement of the means of communication in the taluk had not yet engaged the serious attention of the Government. The improvement of the Karunagapalli–Krishnapuram road was sanctioned a few years ago, but the work had not yet been completed and was not going on now. A mile at each end of the road had been improved and the work then left in progress. He requested that the improvement of the road might be ordered to be resumed and completed without delay.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

64. Some suggestions in regard to the system of irrigation in South Travancore.

Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) said that the irrigation authorities showed no sympathy to the ryots in the matter of distribution of Kodayar water. Last year, cultivation was started in Tovala and in the adjoining portions of Agastiswaram in the middle of Medam when there was heavy rain. Even then the channels were opened about the 8th of Edavam, water was let out only to the ryots of the cultivated portion. The portion in the Agastiswaram taluk, where cultivation was not started for want of water, was allowed water from the channel only towards the middle of Mithunam. The effect of such late cultivation became still more serious when, at a time water was required to prop up the crop, the dam was closed ten days before the usual date. The channels were closed without giving previous intimation to the ryots. The result was that the crops of even the Tovala ryots failed. The time for applying for *karivu* remission was also over and applications would not now be received. When the people complained last year about non-supply of water, the Government doubted the accuracy of their statement. He prayed that a timely inspection or enquiry be made into the matter this year.

The Member was of opinion that the want of sympathy on the part of the irrigation officers was at the root of all their grievances. To remedy the defect, he suggested that an Irrigation Board should be formed for South Travancore, consisting of the Irrigation Division Officer, the Dewan Peishkar and the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries as its official members, with an equal number of respectable and influential persons as non-official members, and that the distribution of Kodayar water to the ryots should be entrusted to that board, and added that, without such a board, it was impossible for the people to reap the advantages of the costly Kodayar Project.

He then suggested the desirability of storing up in the several major tanks the water coming down the Pazhayar and other streams, during the time the channels are closed. Apart from the use for communal purposes, the stored-up water would lighten the pressure on the Irrigation Department at the beginning of the cultivation season. The flood water in the Pazhayar river in Medam was usually allowed to flow into the Manakudi lake, causing damage to the salt pans at Thamarakulam. He therefore requested that early orders should be issued, in the interests of the Government as well as of the ryots, to conserve in the major tanks the flood water flowing down the Pazhayar and other irrigation channels in the month of Medam.

He next referred to the losses suffered by the ryots by the annual floods in the Pazhayar river and requested that the works sanctioned by the Government for the prevention of the floods should be taken up at an early date.

He also requested that orders might be issued to maintain a constant flow, large or small, in the new channels and sluices during the period they were open for irrigation purposes. The present system of allowing full flow through a channel for a few days and then closing it up for another few days was detrimental to the crops. A similar process was carried on in the sluices also.

Lastly, he complained against the action of the Irrigation officers in insisting on court fee stamps on petitions on irrigation matters in spite of the Government order to the contrary. They interpreted the G. O. in that way. He requested that clear orders might be issued exempting such petitions and applications from all fees.

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Dewan's reply.—Noted. The question of court fee on petitions Irrigation officers will be looked into.

65. Need for repairing the village roads, lanes and streets in the town of Nagercoil.

Mr. Gnaniyar Sahib Taha Sahib (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) said that branch channel from the Petchipara Reservoir was running near the town of Nagerc towards the south. The bed of the channel and the fields watered by it were 30 above the level of the town in some places. Consequently, water percolated the streets and lanes in the southern portion of the town, and particularly in Kotg Vadiveeswaram and Vadasseri. The filth that accumulated in the lanes was drenc by the water from the channel and the lanes were thus rendered impassable. All ki of diseases emanated from the filthy water and the damp condition of the s The foundations of many buildings were affected by the percolation of water. T Member therefore requested that, in the interests of the health of the town, a outlets might be constructed at certain places to drain away the water into t Parakkay channel.

Dewan's reply.—The lanes in the town of Nagercoil come to about 100 mil Besides the important public roads passing through the town, the Public Wo Department now maintain about 5 miles of these lanes. Some more of the wi lanes could probably be entrusted to them for maintenance. The Chief Engine will be consulted in the matter and the needful will be done. The Town Impro ment Committee will have to see to the maintenance of the remaining lanes. If t Committee have not sufficient funds at their disposal, they may raise the same additional taxation.

66. Restoration of certain irrigation tanks in the Vilavankod taluk.

Mr. C. Narayana Pillai (Member, Vilavankod taluk) said that the bed of Kuzhithura river was on a lower level than the adjoining lands. The water from river could not therefore be taken to the irrigation tanks of the taluk. The irrig tanks had consequently to be fed by rain-water alone. There were 736 irrigation in the taluk, all of which were now in a state of disrepair. The general cor of the ryots was very poor and they would not be able to attend to the of the tanks. The crops usually failed for want of water. Only two of the 736 came under major tanks and there were 11 others which irrigated over 50 acres The Member requested that, as a measure of relief to the ryots of the taluk ar special reference to the peculiar feature of the irrigation tanks in the taluk, the ment might be pleased to include the 11 minor tanks also under the head of tanks, no contribution being levied from the ryots in respect of their maint In regard to the other tanks, the ryots would gladly pay half the cost but the restoration should be persisted in and something done every year for some come. The Member added that it was owing to the present financial depressio he abstained from pressing the construction of a channel into the taluk from Vannanpara anicut or the Kodayar channel. The subject of the repair of the ir tion tanks had been brought up at eight of the previous sessions, and the Dew the tenth session, replied that the Government recognised the urgency and that action would soon be taken. But nothing had been done in the matter and no had yet been allotted in the budget for the repair of any of the tanks.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. With regard to the Vannanpara channel, the C Engineer says that the cost of the scheme is out of all proportion to the advanta that may be derived from it. Investigation has been made in regard to the majo minor irrigation tanks in the taluk and the Government expect the Chief Engine report soon. The petty tanks have also been taken into consideration in the inve gation. The whole question will be carefully considered as soon as the C Engineer's report is received.

In this connection, I will say a few words for the information of the Mem generally. Several representations have been made by the Members in succes sessions of the Assembly and the Members have also urged strongly their reasons support of their requests. There are some suggestions which, though goo themselves, will have to lie over for want of funds, even under normal condit

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